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ROMANCE OF AMERICAN HISTORY.

The Story of Lafitte, the Pirate

Genlus, and the Baratarians. About a fortnight ago, according to newspaper reports, some fishermen in Galveston Bay pulled up from the mud bottom near Virginia Point two small copper can-These little pieces bear inscriptions which show that they were cast in Bogota in 1788. One of them is named "El Fuerte," the Mighty, and the other, "El Cruel," the Merciless. The Galveston Artillery Company has bought the two guns and set them up in itsarmory; and local archeologists agree in the opinion that the cannon formed part of the armament of one of the schooners of JEAN LAFITTE, the so-called Terror of the Gulf, whose fleet was partially destroyed at Virginia Point in the great hurricane of 1818, during the time when that remarkble adventurer held possession of Galveston Island.

Not merely is there a glamour of romance about every circumstance connected with LAFITTE'S career, but there is historical importance in any discovery that serves to fix or verify a date or a tradition concerning him. Laritte is an unique figure in American history. His origin, his early life, his latter years, and his death, are obscured in a mystery that is likely to be perpetual. It is only for a brief period imediately preceding and during the events of 1814 in Louisiana that his shadowy personality comes into anything like a sharp focus; and even concerning the few defl nitely asserted facts about him, in that episode of his career, there is room for an immense amount of contro versy. All this would not be surprising in the case of an equally illustrious freebooter of the fifteenth or sixteenth century. But it must be borne in mind that LAFITTE was so nearly contemporary with the present generation that there are still living in New Orleans persons who may have seen him in their childhood. He was thirteen years younger than his admirer. Gen. ANDREW JACKSON. He was born only twenty-five years before FERDINAND DE LESSEPS. He is a personage of the present century. Yet with all that has been said and written about JEAN LAFITTE, scarcely more is really known of him than of the misty Buccaneer Morgan, dead a hundred years before LAPITTE appeared on the scene. He is actually a less distinct figure, from the historian's point of view, we will not say than HERNANDO CORTES, but even than Pedro de Alvarado or Gonzalo de SANDOVAL, or any of the more conspicuous companions and lieutenants of Corres, who were LAFITTE's predecessors in the Gulf of

There are two views of LAFITTE to be onsidered here, and both are interesting. One is the LAFITTE of the books of pirates. wherein he is duly exalted as the last of the great corsairs; the LAPITTE of tradition and of the novelist; the LAPITTE whom Lord Byron admired and made use of as a part of his poetle composite; the restless gallant, desperate bandit of the seas, fear ng neither man nor devil, nor, again, Gon's hurricanes, magnanimous in his rascality. and magnificent in his hospitality to friend or enemy penetrating to his lair and treas ure house on shore. This is the wickedly heroic figure which, cutlass in hand, perso treaming with gore, fighting the way inch by inch across the slippery deck of the richly freighted prize, has for many years captivated the imagination of countles American and British youths. We frankly onfess a considerable affection for JEAN LAFITE in this aspect; but the sentiment all not be allowed to outweigh the law of evidence.

Mexico by fully three centuries.

The other LAFITTE is he of existing his orical documents, and such testimony as has been preserved from the statements of credible citizens of New Orleans who knew him well in the early years of the century This LAFITTE is the landsman blacksmith who knew how to drive a sharp bargain even if he did not know how to navigate ship and never brandished a boarding cutass over the deck of any craft of comnerce: the town agent of the Gulf smug glers, the trader who by his commercia genius and personal force built up at Bara turis an extensive mart for the sale of the goods and slaves captured by the privaeers sailing under Carthagenian or Coombian colors, which then swarmed in the Gulf and the Caribbean Sea, preying upon the Spanish merchant marine; the client and friend of EDWARD LIVINGSTON, ex Mayor of New York city; the adroit and politic citizen who enjoyed the confidence and society of the solid merchants of Loui siana, and managed, on the whole, to keep either well within the statutes, or, at least on the safe side of public opinion. Of this LAFITTE, about the worst that can be said is that he was a practical free trader on a large scale, who amply atoned for his lack of respect for the revenue and admiralty laws of the United States by a service of inestimable value to the country at the lime when the British were preparing to invade Louisiana.

The evolution and destruction of the mythical Laritte afford an interesting subject for study. The best way to treat him is to trace the probable process by which he became celebrated as the typical pirate of the age, the scourge of commerce in both the East and West Indies, and the Terror of the Gulf. Then, by following the investigations which demolish so much of the popularly accepted narrative, we shall measure the residuum of truth.

No account need be taken of pretended ketches of Laritre's career in the various Lives and Exploits of the Most Noted Pirates, published early in the present century. Literature of that class does not concern itself much with facts, and names are only dummies to be dressed out with the conventional deeds of the ideal desperado. The first appearance, as far as we can find, of JEAN LAPITTE in the respectable pages of history, is in the Rev. TIMOTHY FLINT'S "Geography and History of the Western States in the Valley of the Mississippi." published in Cincinnati in 1828. Mr. FLINT was a contemporary of the Pirate's and a reasonably cautious scrutinizer of facts. His facts about the Pirate are scanty. and they chiefly concern the episode of the British invasion and the attempt to induce LAFITTE to betray Louisiana. Mr. FLINT Positively asserts, however, that LAFITTE | Bight of Benin he captured two valuable was present at the battle of New Orleans,

fighting under Gen. Jackson. Ten years later the Rev. JOSEPH H. IN-GPAHAM, the once popular but now almost forgotten novelist of Maine and Mississippi. published his romance entitled "Lafitte: The Pirate of the Gulf." This peaceful pirates, and he dressed up LAPITTE, just as he dressed up Captain Kyp in another work of generous and somewhat sanguinary imagination. The Ingraham novel is mentioned here because the author's purely fanciful conception is responsible for much consense that was afterward alleged about LAFITTE as if it were historical truth. In a letter written from Aberdeen, Mississippi, in 1852, to the editor of De Bow's Review. the Rev. Mr. INGRAHAM humorously protested against the attempt to resolve his dashing hero into a mere landsman and a blacksmith. The idea of the novel, he said. was suggested by the chapter in the Rev TIMOTHY FLINT'S book; and he added: "I found in my researches, twenty years ago romantic legends so interwoven with facts that it was extremely difficult to separate the historical from the traditional. I am very sure that the same cause will make it impossible to arrive at the truth of his life. His only biographer at last must be the

comancer." Fifteen years after the publication of INGRAHAM'S romance, there was printed in De Bow's Review for October, 1851, a bio graphical sketch of LAFITTE, purporting to have been written by one George A. Prence of Louislana. Whether this extraordinary article was concected in good faith, or whether it was a deliberate literary imposition, with the editor of the Review either a victim or a party in the perversion of history, we have no means of knowing. In the lively controversy which ensued, the editor of De Bow's made haste to announce that his contributor, PIERCE, was dead, and therefore could not defend his own statements. These statements regarding LA-FITTE S career were offered to the public as based upon talks with individuals who had served under him, public documents, and the most generally accepted accounts of his life and exploits. They are useful for the present purpose, because they include about every yarn or romantic extravaganza that helped to make up the mythical LAPITTE; and the whole story is gravely told by the alleged Pierce with great particularity of detail and delightful abandon as regards adjectives and gore.

According to the De Bow version, JEAN LA-FITTE was born in St. Malo, France, in 1781. From boyhood he lived and sailed on the ocean. Before he reached manhood he had made several voyages to seaports in Europe and Africa. In 1802 or 1803, he shipped as first mate of a French East Indiaman bound for Madras. Off the Cape of Good Hope the ship was nearly wrecked in a gale, and a fire broke out in the hold, damaging the vessel so much that the Captain put in to the Mauritius. LAFITTE had quarrelied with the Captain, and as his haughty spirit never brooked control, he abandoned the ship in disgust. From that period began his illegal connection with the ocean. His restless spirit," explains Mr. PIERCE, had been inflamed by the romantic exploits of the hardy buccaneers of the time, whose names and deeds had resounded over every land and sea; and he resolved to imitate, if not surpass, their most brilliant actions, and leave a fame to the future that would not soon be forgotten. The young LAFITTE climbed the ladder of

piratical fame with simian agility. French privateers were fitting out at Port St. Louis to attack British commerce. LAFITTE accepted the command of a beautiful, fastsailing vessel of 200 tons with two guns and twenty-six men, and spared no pains to make her the pride of the sea. He sailed forth and attacked indiscriminately weaker crafts under whatever flag. He accumulated vast sums of gold and silver, enriching himself and his crew; but "these sums were soon spent in profligacy and liberality." Then he went into the slave trade. taking a cargo of negroes from the Seychelles to the Mauritlus, he was chased as far north as the equator by an English man-ofwar. Escaping, but being out of provisions. with the energy and boldness characteristic of him, he put his helm about and made for the Bay of Bengal. He captured an English armed schooner superior to his own vessel. and transferred himself and nineteen of his crew to her decks. Before long he fell in with the Pagoda, an English East Indiaman carrying twenty-six guns and 150 men. LAFITTE so managuvred as to make the Englishmen believe he was a Gauges pilot. As soon as he had the weather rauge of the Pagoda he boarded her, cutlass in hand, at the head of his nineteen men, and overpowered the 150 Englishmen, putting to the sword all who resisted him. Again he transferred his command to the captured ship and sailed back to the Mauritius, where he sold his prizes and bought for a new venture a strong, well-built ship. named La Confiance, equipped with 26 guns and manned by 250 bold pirates. LAFITTE'S second cruise in La Confiance

began in 1807. According to his biographer, this cruise was marked by the same skilful navigation, desperate valor, and immense pecuniary success as had distinguished his previous efforts. A sample of his adventures is the encounter with the Queen. a huge Britisher, plerced for forty guns and carrying 400 men. Laritre fell in with the Queen off "Sand's Heads," somewhere on the coast of British India:

"The Queen moved majestic on her way as if in defi ance of his inferior force. Larittz resolved to take her He addressed a powerful speech to his men. exciting ir wildest imaginations. Every man waved his he their wildest imaginations. Every man waved his hat and hand and oried aboud for action. The Queen bore down on him and gave him a tremendous broadside, which, owing to the height, did but little execution. Before the action Larryz had ordered his men to lie down on the decks. The British Captein believed that all were killed or wounded, and came alongside grapple and board. At this moment Lariers gave whiatle, and in an instant the deck bristied with armed men. While the amoke prevailed he ordered his men into the tops and yards, whence they poured down an incessant fire of shells, bombs, and grenades into the forecastle of the Indiaman, producing such slaughter among the crew that they were forced withdraw. At this crisis Lavirra beat to arms, and placing a favorite at the head of forty men, with pis-tols in their hands and daggers in their elenched teeth, ordered them to board. Layirra followed at the head f a second division of boarders. He himself engages the Captain of the Queen, and after a severe conflict slew him. Still the linglish crew fought bravely. La-sures pointed at them a awayed gun, charged with grape and canister; and seeing that extermination was in evitable, they surrendered. The resset was plundered and a large amount of gold and silver was divide

among La Confiance's crew." This and similar exploits of Capt. La-FITTE of La Conflance produced such a panic in British commerce that no ships went out to India except under strong convoy. LAFITTE decided to sail home. Incidentally, in the Gulf of Guinea and the prizes laden with palm oil, ivory, and gold dust. At St. Malo he sold La Confiance and his prizes with their cargo, and "trod once more his native soil, opulent and renowned, where, ten years previous, he was hardly known.

The next chapter of the mythical history

western continent. He was not long in- little village on the Garonne; not on the Gaactive. "His restless spirit, like a caged eagle, longed once more for his native element, the breeze, the battle, and the storm." The renowned and wealthy pirate turned his attention from the East Indies to the West Indies. His illustrious success accompanied him across the Atlantic. In a brigantine with 20 gups and 150 men, with the French island of Guadeloupe as headquarters, he swooped down once more on British commerce. When the English took Guadeloupe, he transferred his headquarters and his nominal allegiance to Carthagena, which had recently declared its independence of Spain. Under the Carthagenian flag he plundered the Spanish merchantmen. Here he acquired his title, "the Terror of the Gulf."

The United States were then at peace with the world, and LAFITTE could not bring his prizes into our ports or dispose of his booty openly in our markets. So he and other pirates, who styled themselves "privateers," smuggled their stolen goods and captured slaves into New Orleans through the system of inlets and bayou west of the Mississippi's delta. In 1811 LAFITTE fortifled the island of Grande Terre, at the Gulf entrance to this back passage to the city; and there gradually grew up under his direction and domination the celebrated pirates' haven and storehouse, and emporium of piratical plunder which came to be known as Barataria. It was the great exchange where the so-called privateers dealt with the traders of Louisiana, who resorted thither, without much attempt at concealment, to secure cheap bargains.

This stronghold of the pirates and smugglers contained about forty houses, protected by forts, and sheltered a population of from five hundred to one thousand desperadoes of every color, nationality, and grade of villainy. LAFITTE's influence was supreme.' When the scandal became too flagrant, Gov. CLAIBORNE of Louislana issued a proclamation offering a reward of \$500 for LAFITTE's head. The pirate chief retaliated with an offer of \$15,000 for the Governor's head. The Governor sent down an expedition, led by a man who had served under LAFITTE and knew the ground, to destroy Barataria and to bring the buccaneers to New Orleans for trial. LAFITTE permitted the expedition to approach his fortifications; and then at his signal from a boatswain's whistle the entire party of invaders was surrounded and captured before it could strike a blow. was on this occasion," wrote Mr. PIERCE, that LAFITTE showed that characteristic nobleness and generosity of character which glistens like a jewel in the darkness of a thousand crimes. Instead of executing the man who had come to take away his life and all that was dear to him, he loaded him with presents and suffered him to return unmolested to New Orleans." Ships of the United States navy had tried once to capture Barataria by sea, and had actually been repulsed by LAPITTE, and forced to retreat. A British sloop-of-war which undertook the same job in June, 1813, had no better fortune. But in June of the following year. Commodore Patterson of the United States navy, with a detachment of the Forty-seventh United States Infantry and several gunboats, succeeded in taking possession of Barataria, temporarily dispersing its inhabitants, and capturing six fine schooners and one felucea that happened to be in the harbor at the time.

We have now come to what may be termed the strictly historical period of JEAN LAFITTE's career, and shall consider it separately, after we are through with the semi-mythical Pirate. After the battle of New Orleans, where, according to PIERCE. LAFITTE "raved like a lion amid his fury. cutting down two British officers in command with his own arm," and after President Madison's proclamation of full pardon to all the Baratarians who had been engaged in the defence of New Orleans, the story of this extraordinary personage becomes involved again in the mists of contradictory and purely legendary narrative. PIERCE represents him as continuing his piratical career in the old fashion, first under the flag of Carthagena, and then under that of the new Colombian republic. With a new Barataria on Galveston Island, and a fleet of swift schooners, he carried on the business of robbing, smuggling, and piracy, although he uniformly alleged that his depredations were committed on Spanish bottoms alone. He amassed immense sums of money which he either divided among his fellows, spent in luxurious living during his incidental visits to civilization, or buried on the wild islands along the Gulf shore. During a short stay in Washington city the Pirate is said to have expended \$60,000 in entertaining fashionable society. The yarns about his buried treasures are innumerable. Between 1840 and 1850 there was a story of the discovery of \$20,000 in kegs on the Gulf island of Caillou by a man named Wagner and six others. The six then murdered Wagner and carried off LAFITTE'S deposit. Gold bars of great value were also said to have been dug up at times on the site of Barataria.

LAPITTE's last voyage was in a large, fast brigantine of sixteen guns and a crew of 116, on which he hoisted the Colombian flag and "went forth like an evil spirit to war against the world." According to Mr. PIERCE's very circumstantial account, a British sloop-of-war chased and overhauled the brigantine in the Gulf, the year not stated. The British boarded the pirate and a terrible conflict ensued:

"Above the storm of battle, Laritte's stern voice was heard, and his red arm, atreaming with gore and grasping a shattered blade, was seen in the darkest of the conflict. The blood now ran in torrents from the ength Larryra fell, wounded desperately in two places bail had broken the bone of his right leg; a cuitas had penetrated his stomach. The commander of the boarders was stretched squaeless on the deck close by Laritte, and the designate pirate, behelding his victim within his grasp, raised himself with difficulty and pain, dagger in hand, to slay the unconacious man. Laritte threw his clotted locks aside, drew his hand across his brow to clear his sight of blood and mist and raised the glittering blade above the beart of the dying man. But his brain was dizzy, his aim unsure, and the dagger descending, pierced the thigh of hi owerless for, and Laritta fell back exhausted on the leck. Again reviving, with the convulsive grasp of death, he essayed again to plunge the dagger heart of the foc, but as he held it over his breast the fort to strike broke the slender ligament of life, and JEAN LATITIE WAS DO MOTE.

A worthy death for the Pirate of the Guif! but as purely imaginary as most of the foregoing recital. Thus far PIERCE. The article in Da Bow's Review brought out a great mass of equally valuable testimony, mostly based on the alleged statements of those who had served under LAFITTE or had known him personally and derived the facts from his own lips. According to various witeacher and clergyman had a taste for of JEAN LAPITTE introduces him to the lesses, he was born not in St. Malo, but in a

ronne, but at Marseilles; not at Marseilles, but at Bayonne; not at Bayonne, but at Bordeaux. JIM CAMPBELL, who was one of LAPITTE'S principal lleutenants in Texas, insisted that his chieftain was a Bordelais. and, although CAMPBELL's statements re specting Laritte's early life are by no means conclusive, the weight of probability assigns to Bordeaux the honor of being the birthplace of this illustrious pirate. By another account, LAFITTE was not a sailor in early life, but a Captain in Napoleon's army, where he acquired a proficiency in the art of swordsmanship which enabled him to support himself for a time in New Orleans as a fencing master. Another witness wrote to the Philadelphia Bulletin in 1852, that to his personal knowledge La-FITTE had been a French sailor, who was captured by a British man-of-war and imprisoned for many years in an English port. When he was at last released, his savage thirst for vengeance against the hated nation led him to turn pirate. His family and friends tried in vain by theological argument to dissuade him from his wicked project. "If I do go to hell," wrote La-FITTE in reply, "I will drag plenty of Eng-lishmen with me." This same witness declared that after the battle of New Orleans LAFITE returned to France, with a wife, whom he had married in America; that the ex-Pirate of the Gulf had died peacefully in bed, not many years previous to 1852; and that Mrs. LAFITTE was then, or until quite recently, living in France. Still another version, apparently accepted after investigation by Mr. YOAKUM, the historian of Texas, whose book was published in 1856. makes LAFITTE a runaway from France and a sailor on the British frigate Fox. He deserted, lived for a time with a French famlly in Deptford, took passage to South America, lived at Carthagena and afterward at Santa Martha, became a privateer when the struggle for independence began in New Granada, visited several ports of the United States, including Charleston, where he killed a rival in a love affair, and finally found his way to Barataria and New Or leans. According to Mr. YOAKUM, after participating in the Texas revolution and figuring as Governor of Galveston, La-PITTE was driven out of Texas by Lieut. KEARNEY of the United States brig Enterprise, in 1821, and died in 1826 at Silan, a town of Yucatan about fifteen miles from Mérida. Most extraordinary of all was the belief, positively entertained in some quarters, that LAPITTE was still alive toward the middle of the present century, and, under another name, the commander of a passen ger vessel plying between the Gulf of Mexi-

We shall now proceed to indicate the es tablished facts in LAFITTE's career. If the showing is meagre in comparison with the mass of romance already presented, it is because care is taken to exclude every doubtful statement that has been eliminated by the researches of Mr. WALKER of the New Orleans Delta, Mr. CHARLES GAY-ARRE, the historian of Louisians, and other dispassionate investigators.

co and a Northern port.

The first thing positively known of JEAN LAFITTE is that he, with his brother PIERRE, owned and operated a blacksmith's shop, about the year 1809 or 1810, on the north side of St. Philip street, New Orleans. They lived in a house near by, at the northwest corner of St. Philip street and Bourbon street. The blacksmiths were prosperous and owned slaves, whom they employed in the shop. Probably, but not certainly, the brothers LAFITTE had come to New Or leans from France by way of Carthagena,

as alleged by JIM CAMPBELL. The connection of JEAN LAFITTE Barataria establishment grew out of his usefulness on shore as a commercial agent not out of any previous piratical exploits at sea. He was not a sailor. He was a shrewd, intelligent, plausible trader and manager of affairs. The several wars incident to Bolivia's long struggle agains Spain's rule in South America, filled the Gulf and the West Indian waters with privateers, in many instances fitted out by capitalists in New Orleans and Northern cities. Their prizes were brought to Grande Terre Island, and the settlement known as Barataria became the principal port of illegal entry for the cargoes of merchandse or of slaves taken from Spanish ships. There is a strong probability that the Gulf privateers occasionally mistook other flags for the Spanish colors; but, so far as LAFITTE is concerned, there is no positive evidence convicting him of technical piracy. He was at first the town agent, and afterward the organizer and manager of a system de vised to get around the revenue laws of the United States, to the profit not only of the privateers selling the goods and the smugglers bringing them in, but also of the otherwise good citizens and respectable merchants in New Orleans and other American marketa. He was never a sea rover He was first a middleman between the sea rovers and the city merchants, a lobbyist working to prevent uncomfortable vigilance on the part of the authorities; and then, as his personal influence extended and his gains from the lucrative traffic accumulated, he became a proprietor of vessels and an employer of captains and erful figure in a great system of illegiti-

crews; in short, the central and most pow mate commerce. In the Territorial days of Louisiana proper the social and political influence of La-FITTE's clients was enough to protect a traffic so profitable to New Orleans. When Louisiana became a State in 1812, Governor CLAIBORNE issued several proclamations against the smugglers, including one of March 14, naming JOHN LAFITTE as the leader of the smugglers and offering a reward for his arrest. At different times, in a half-hearted way the State authorities attempted to break up the business by armed force; but nothing was accomplished and CLAIBORNE's repeated appeals failed to stir the Legislature to energetic action. In the United States District Court, the Grand Jury made a presentment against the two LAFITTES for criminal violation of the revenue, embargo, and non-intercourse laws. If never came to trial. Col. JOHN R. GRYMPS, a leader at the Louisiana bar, resigned his office of United States District Attorney to defend the LAFITTES for a fee of \$20,000; and EDWARD LIVINGSTON, afterward Secretary of State under Jackson

receive their pay. GHTHER RECEPTED readily, but LavIMMETON was not disposed to risk the adventure.

'GHTHEL' he said, 'as you are a well-known
scapegrace, you have nothing to fear from congenial spirits. But as for myself, they might hang me for being so different from you and tham. Therefore, propose to you to be my representative, and as a re muneration for your trouble I will give you ten per cent, on my fee if you bring it to me.' 'Agreed,' said Gavans, and departed. He was treated with princely brepitality by the Baratarians, who insisted on his renaming a whole week with them. Finally he was con ducted by the Layirras themselves to the banks of the Mississippi in a superbyawi loaded with boxes of gold and silver. It was highly amusing to hear Caynes re late how gorgeously feasted he was at Barataria by these innocent and personted people, whom he repre-sented as the most giorious fellows in the world. "What s cruel misnomer it is, he would exclaim with moci olemnity to call the most bonest and polished gen-

lemen the world ever produced bandits and pirates." The next and most creditable incident in LAFITTE's career is also strictly historical. On Sept. 3, 1814, about a fortnight before Commodore Patterson's attack on Barataria, the British brig Sophia anchored six miles off shore and sent to LAFITTE a boat under a flag of truce. Two naval Captains, LOCKYER and McWILLIAMS, came ashore as messengers from Col. NICHOLLS, commanding the British army in Florida, and from Sir W. H. PERCY, senior officer of the British fleet in the Gulf. Bringing proper credentials and in the most responsible way, the visitors informed LAFITTE of the proposed British operations in lower Louisiana, and of the reenforcements then on the way to assist in the invasion; and they invited LAFITTE to take service with the English against the United States, offering him the rank of Captain, and a gratuity of \$30,000 payable either at Pensacola or at New Orleans; also ample remuneration and free pardon for previous offences to any Baratarian following him into the

British service. LAFITTE temporized with his tempters. but there is no reason to believe that for an instant he thought of accepting their proposition. The outlaw at once addressed to the Hon. JOHN BLANQUE, a leading member of the Louisiana Legislature, and to Governor CLAIBORNE, two letters setting forth fully the British plans and the offer to himself. These remarkable documents exhibit Lafitte's intelligence, his comnand of the English language, and his personal view of the degree of guilt involved in the Baratarian enterprise. "I may have evaded the payment of duties to the Custom House," he wrote to Mr. BLANQUE, " but I have never ceased to be a good citizen, and all the offences I have committed I was forced to by certain vices in our laws." To the Governor he said: "I offer to restore to this State several citizens who perhaps in your eyes have lost that sacred title. I offer you them, however, such as you would wish to find them, ready to exert their utmost efforts in defence of the country. The point of Louisiana which I occupy is of great importance in the present crisis. I tender my services to defend it; and the only reward I ask is that a stop be put to the proscription against me and my adherents. I am the stray sheep wishing to return to the sheepfold." With magnantmous delleacy Lafitre added: "Should your answer not be favorable to my ardent desires, I declare to you that I will instantly leave the country to avoid the imputation of having cooperated toward an invasion on this point, which cannot fail to take place." The originals of the letters of Col. NICHOLLS and Sir W. H. PERCY are among the records of the United States District Court in New Orleans, where they were afterward filed by LAFITTE himself.

LOCKYER waited a fortnight for LAPITTE'S reply and then, mistrusting the intention of the pirates, withdrew from the neighborhood of Barataria. Meanwhile, in New Orleans, the news of the impending inva- desperate valor. This is probably the prinsion, as reported by LAFITTE, had produced great excitement. About two months earlier the Grand Jury had found a second indictment against several members of the Barataria Association. A man named JOHANNES had been indicted for piracy in the case of the Spanish ship Santa, captured and robbed of \$9,000. A second Baratarian who called himself Johannor was charged with piracy in the case of another Spanish ship captured off Trinidad, with a cargo worth \$30,000. And Jean Lafitte's brother PIERRE had been indicted as "aider and abettor in these crimes before and after the fact, who did upon land, to wit., in the city of New Orleans, wilfully and knowingly aid, assist, procure, counsel and advise the said piracies and robberies PIERRE LAFITTE had been arrested, and, ball having been refused in his case, was then a prisoner in the New Orleans calaboose. These proceedings indicated a more vigorous policy on the part of the authorities as against Barataria, and Jean La-FITTE had actually gone to the island to prepare for the removal of the establishment to some more secure place. Such was the situation when the British officers arrived with their tempting offer. In New Orleans there was a wide differ-

ence of opinion as to the propriety of accepting LAFITTE's proposal to enter the service of the United States. Gen. ANDREW Jackson issued one or two flery proclamstions denouncing the British for "courting an alliance with pirates and robbers," and referring to Mr. LAFITTE and his companions as "hellish banditti." On the other hand, strong influence was exerted by many prominent citizens in favor of the Baratarian proposition. There is a story of a personal interview between Andrew JACKSON and JEAN LAFITTE, which resulted in an entire change of opinion on the General's part concerning the hellish character of the eminent outlaw. What probably influenced Jackson more than anything else was the advice of EDWARD LIVINGSTON, who had already manifested his own readiness to trust the Lafffres by committing to one of them the care of the safety of his own wife and child, in case of the success of the British in getting to New Orleans. The offer of LAPITTE met with no official response until martial law had been declared and Jackson was practically dictator. Then the services of the Baratarians were accepted. They formed two companies of artillery, fought bravely in the battle, and fairly earned the pardon which they subsequently received. Whether JEAN LAFITTE was present in person at the battle of New Orleans. or was elsewhere engaged, is a question about which the testimony conflicts. In his general order after the battle of Jan. 8,

same courage and fidelity, and the General promises that the Government shall be duly apprised of their

Mr. GAYARRE says, in the Magazine of American History:

"It has been related to me by an eye witness that Gen. Jackson seemed to take a particular interest in the Baratarians stationed under him at his line of defence running from the Mississiphi to the awampa. He used to visit them frequently, chatting with them familiarly, and shaking hands cordially. Would be have done so if he had continued to consider there men as pirates and out throats: It is also reported that at the beginning of the battle of Jan. 8, Jackson was rapidly moving on horseback along his line, when arriving at the Domesique You batters, he stopped abruptly and exclaimed in a tone of astonishment: 'What! What! By the Eternal, what is the matter ! You have ceased firing !

"'Of course, General, of course,' replied the outlaw; the powder is good for nothing; fit only to shoot

blackbirds with, not redcoats,

"Jackson quickly turned to one of his aids and said: Tell the ordnance officer that I will have him shot in five minutes as a traitor if Dogestique complains any ore of his bowder,' and he galloped off

"When he retorned, Downique was blazing away furiously. 'Ha! ha! friend Downique,' exclaimed Jackson, cheerfully, 'I see you are hard at work.' 'l'retty good work, too,' repiled Downsiger with chuckle. 'I guess the redconts have discovered by this time that there has been a change in the powder."

JACKSON kept his promise to the hellish banditti, whom patriotic service had transferred into "gentlemen" and "privateers." Months before these events the expedition of Commodore Patterson and Capt. Ross had destroyed Barataria; but after the battle of New Orleans President Madison by proclamation recognized the patriotic services of the Baratarians:

"It has been represented that the offenters have manifested a sincere repentance; that they have aban-doned the prosecution of the worst cause for the support of the heat; and particularly that they have ex-hibited in the defence of New Orleans unequivocal traits of courage and fidelity. Offenders who have re-fused to become the associates of the enemy in war spon the most seducing terms of invitation, and who have aided to repel in his hostlie invasion of the territory of the United States, can no longer be considered as objects of punishment, but as objects of a generous fergiveness."

The shadowy personage whom we have followed so far now becomes once more a character of metion rather tuan of history. There is pienty of legendary information concerning Lapitre's career after the battle of New Orleans, but there is nothing that can be presented with confldence. The story of his life in Texas, his part in the early history of Galveston, his subsequent exploits on shore and at sea, the time, place, and circumstances, even, of his death, are still involved in doubt, and marked by manifest contradictions. Most of the popularly accepted parratives are based on the statements of lieutenants and associates of LAPITTE, such as DOMENIQUE YOU, JIM CAMPBELL, CHURCHILL, FRANKS, ROACH, MAROTTE, PLUCHE, FELIX, GIRAL. LOPEZ, and BROWN, names, as Mr. YOAKUM remarks, "all once a terror to commerce in the Gulf of Mexico." Neither Mr. YOAKUM nor any other annalist of Texas has succeeded in separating the true from the false; and the connection of JEAN LAFITTE with the early history of the Lone Star State affords a difficult, but most fascinating field for patient research by some conscientious

investigator in Texas. How does it happen that so little is really known about Jean Lapitre? Why has so vast a volume of fable accumulated around the person of a man of the nineteenth century? Partly because the nineteenth century imagination is as hungry for romance and mystery as was that of the sixteenth, or of the sixth. Partly, we suppose, because this remarkable ex-blacksmith, considering the nature of the business he engaged in, and the character of the men he had to deal with, found it to his own advantage to encourage all sorts of yarns about his early life and sanguinary deeds and cipal key to the mystery of LAFITTE's mysteriousness. The boss of desperadoes, it was part of his policy to figure as the most accomplished and experienced desperado in Barataria. It is quite likely that the LAFITTE myth was largely of LAFITTE'S own creation. E. P. MITCHELL.

## CHAPLAIN ON THE MERRIMAC. The Death of a Priest Who Was a Hero is the Confederate Army.

From the Mobile Daily Register. A despatch from Macon, Ga., announces the death in that city on Wednesday morning of the Rev. Father Darius Hubert, in the 70th year of his age. He had removed to Macon from New Orleans about a year ago for his health, having sustained a stroke of paralysis in the latter city about two years ago.

Father Hubert was born July 19, 1823, at Toulon, the great naval station of France. His father gave him a collegiate education, and on Sept. 23, 1843, when he was 20 years of age, he became a member of the Society of Jesus After a few years in the churches of France be was assigned to work in this country. He embarked from France on the sailing vessel St. Ann. Ten other Jesuits came over They arrived in Mobile Dec. 12, 1847, and then separated and went wherever their superiors sent them. Of the eleven that came over only two now survive-the Rev. Father Duffo and Brother Ignatius-the latter having for many years officiated as sexton of the Jesuit church.

As chaplain in the Confederate army he showed the highest courage of manhood and the manly gentleness of the minister of God. He shared with the soldiers of his cor He was up and about at all hours of the night, when most of the white-tented camp breathed in slumber, for he had no thought of fatigue when there was good to be done. Strange to say this life of activity served to build up his physical frame. Previously he had been very delicate, and had suffered from frequent hemorrhages, but four years of life in the open air seemed to recreate the wasted fibres, and left

him at the close of the war strong and healthy. The old soldiers have many stories to tell of Father Hubert's Virginia campaign. They tell them as they would tell them of any other veteran, for be was a much-loved comrade, and

eran, for he was a much-loved comrade, and a soldier every inch of him. When the army passed through Fredericksburg. Md., after a long mach through brambles and bushes, and famine and despair. Father Hubert's clothes were in such a tattered condition, dangling from him like so many rags-but honorable rags—that the good old man was forced to be gnew apparel from tife heople of the tewn, as he knew that the soldiers were too paer to furnish it.

Father Hubert had in him the element that goes to make the hero-perfect fearlessness in the discharge of duy. The crew of the renowned Merrimac were under his chaplainship. When she had her famous fight with the Monitor, Father Hubert was on shore. Immediately after the fight Father Hubert sent word to the commanding officer, Admiral Buchanan, that he wished to come aboard and attend to those who needed his services. Admiral Buchanan eame ashore and said: "Father, I do not wish you to come aboard. We expect to engage the Monitor again to-morrow, and it will be no place for you." My place is with the wounded and dring," answered the brave priost. "Hut, father, listen," returned the Admiral. ward Secretary of State under Jackson and United States Minister to France, associated himself with Grymes for a similar fee. Mr. Gayarres for a similar fee. Mr. Gayarres has told in the Magazine of American History an interesting story of how these two distinguished lawyers collected their \$20,000 fees from the "Terror of the Gulf":

"The accused, when freed from the meshes of the law, invited both counsellors to come to Barstaria and lawyers and universellors. Larres have exceeded the place of you." My place to with the wounder and dying," answered the brave priost, "Hut, father, listen," returned the Admiral. "But, father, listen," returned the Admiral. "We are in a very disabled condition, and if the Monitor returns to-morrow I shall blow up the Monitor returns to-morrow I shall be for the

THE RETURN OF BISMARCK. He Cannot be Brought Back Into Power

Bentin. June 12.-The promoter seeking to ring about a public act of amity between the Emperor of Germany and the Iron Chancellor. saw his place prematurely disclosed and frustrated by one of the puerile accidents which have ere now discounted the sagnetty and caution of statesmen and conspirators far more wonted to diplomacy and strategy than Prince Albert of Prussin. A confidential letter written to a General of the Guard, dropped during a morning ride, found by a third party, carried to a Socialist newspaper, and on the following day run through the European press, achieved the ruin of the hopes which had already so few chances of success

Prince Albert of Prussia is the son of the youngest brother of the old Emperor William L. and has now reached his 50th year. Amid all the preeminently handsome and stalward princes of the superb Hohenzollern race he is one of the handsomest and finest looking. It is possibly on account of these physical advantages that he has been so frequently selected to represent the Emperor and the empire in State ceremonies and gala functions both at home and abroad. At the pageants of military funerals, of court marriages, of coronations, of baptisms, his tall figure, clad in the blue uniform of the Dragoons, plays a conspicuous and highly decorative part. Prince Albert is the honorary chief of numerous regi-He scrupulously fulfils his military duties, and, like all the men of his house, is a brave soldier; but he is not credited with extraordinary genius or cleverness. His father, the elder Prince Albert, of whom it was said that of the four brothers he was the one who was neither handsome nor witty, had a somewhat chequered matrimonial experience. The scandal mongers and gossip lovers of Berlin society made free with the name of his wife. Princess Marlanne of the Netherlands, during the years ranging from 1840 to 1849, when the couple were divorced. The present Prince Albert was the only son born of that ill-starred union, and is himself the father of three boys. whose mother is a Princess of Saxe-Altenburg. The oldest of the young princes is 19. and the youngest 13.

Prince Albert seemed, by reason of his birth and position at court and in his family, to be predestined to a monotonous, cut and dried uneventful career; but the sudden favor of Bismarck, intensified by occult views, lifting him from the shadows in which he dwelt, brought him prominently into a fuller light and endowed him with a crown and a regency. These events are not a decade old as yet, and still they seem already to have faded into oblivion. although they constitute a page of contemporary history connected with British politics.

Nine years ago the throne of Brunswick became vacant. The reigning Duke died childless, and the succession should legitimately have passed into the hands of the Duke of Cumberland, son of the King of Hanover. But this rightful heir had always been violently hostile to Prussia, which had confiscated his property. devoting the revenues to the secret political expenses of the empire. The Duke of Cumber-land, at the death of the Duke of Brunswick issued a proclamation, in which he declared himself ready to govern according to imperial constitutional laws; but Bismarck, as was expected, did not consider these assurances as sufficiently positive and binding. He refused to accept them, and took advantage of the situation to plant Prussia in the very heart of the small duchy that formed part of the confedera-tion and possessed an important civil list. It was on the proposal of the Chancellor that on the 2d day of July, 1885, the Federal Council declared the inability of the Duke of Cumberand to reign over Brunswick, in spite of his nherited rights, as he stood with regard to Prussia in an attitude incompatible and even antagonistic to the constitutional relations that should exist between confederate States. owing to his claims on the territories belonging to that State.

Only two voices were lifted in council against this decision: those of the plenipotentiaries of Reuss, a principality numbering 5,000 inhabitants, and of the Duchy of Mecklenburg-Streitz, counting 40,000.

Under these circumstances it became im perative to nominate a Regent for Brunswick. and Bismarck, working out his plans, brought forward his candidate, Prince Albert of Hohenzollern. A few days later he was elected and solemnly took possession of the duchy, which, with its splendid palace covering a frontage of nearly 400 feet; its museums, containing rich collections, and a civil list of more than 1,200,-000 marks (a quarter of which was affected to the Regent's constituted a superb gift. The population does not exceed 400,000 inhabitants, so that the Regent levies three marks on The civil list is, however, not included in the ducal budget.

Not only have the rulers of Brunswick the enjoyment of a sumptuous winter palace in the capital, but they have also the pretty summer residence of Blankenburg, whence was dated the famous letter written by Prince Alert and lost by Gen. Winterfeld.

It is difficult to ascertain whether the Regent is genuinely popular or loyally liked in Brunswick: he has never committed any acts of arbitrary authority, and it is very doubtful whether the Duke of Cumberland would have been more heartily adopted. Prince Albert ound a constitutional monarchy established in his new dominions, and has not had the slightest inclination to swerve from its tenets. His only ambition is for his eldest son. He went to Berlin last year on the occasion of the visit to that city of the Queen Regent of the Netherlands and her daughter, the young Queen Wilhelmins. The choice of a husband for Withelmina is already a matter of serious preoccupation: It is considered more than probaole that he will be a German Prince; and among he eligible suitors Prince Frederick Henry. the eldest son of the Regent of Brunswick is the most persistently brought forward. His father is estentatiously in constant relations with the court of Holland, even having a permanent box at the opera house of the Hague.

Whatever the future may bring for the aggrandizement of his family. Prince Albert is at present, above all, anxious to keep the Regency of Brunswick. When in 1892 the Duke of Cumberland entered upon a transaction with Prussia and concluded an agreement to recover the possession of his property, it was accompanied by a statement denying any intention on his part of endangering either the tranquillity of the German empire or that of one of the States which form part of it; he declared that he loved his country loyally and sincerely. It was supposed at the time that these formal and categorical declarations would put an end to the Regency of Prince Albert: but they have as yet altered nothing is the situation of Brunswick, which remains a Prussian province, notwithstanding the sub-

Prussian province, notwithstanding the submission of its legitimate owner.

The Regent is profoundly vexed at the incident of the lost and published letter, for he
had never intended it save as private and confidential, and he is likely to abandon now and
definitely any attempt at conciliation between
ithe nower that is and the power that was,
which, even if it were at any future time extake place, could not restore Prince Bismarch
to his whilom influence in political affairs.

The Chancellor has been au oracle whose
words were law; his services to the fatheriand
are still extolled; statues are erected to him
throughout the country; but these honors are
conceded as to one already passed away, as if
he had taken his place in the historical
Panthoon. The effusive cordiality with which
william II, inaugurated the monument of his
grandfather in Silesia, with the two statues of
Moltke and Hismarrk on either side of the old
Emperor, partock of that posthumous ende Moltke and Hismarrk on either side of the old
Emperor, partock of that posthumous ende more a figure of the past than the living exChancellor; and neither the dutiful endeavore
of Prince Albert nor the perfunctory gratitude
of the nation will ever galvanize him into active
governmental existence again.